

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /051 W  
----- 043744

O 162225Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1649

INFO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 3272

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, PGOV, ES, HO

SUBJECT: FURTHER BORDER INCIDENTS - EL SALVADOR - HONDURAS

### 1. LOCAL PRESS, JULY 15, CARRIED STORIES OF HONDURAN TROOPS

FIRING INTO EL SALVADOR IN ZAPALAPA AREA OF FRONTIER. NEWS ARTICLES CLAIMED TWO CIVILIANS KILLED ON SALVADORAN SIDE AS A RESULT OF HEAVY FIRE, INCLUDING ARTILLERY, RECEIVED FROM HONDURAS. JULY 16 PRESS CARRIED ANNOUNCEMENT FROM MINISTER OF DEFENSE SAYING THAT CHIEFS-OF-STAFF FROM BOTPISIDES HAD MET AT BORDER THE DAY BEFORE IN AN ATTEMPT TO MAINTAIN PEACE AND AVOID FURTHER PROVOCATIVE INCIDENTS. SAME DAY'S PRESS CARRIED WIRE SERVICE REPORT FROM GUATEMALA INDICATING THAT COUNTRY HAD OFFICIALLY ASKED OAS INVESTIGATION OF CONTINUING INCIDENCE OF CLASHES.

### 2. DATT HAS CONFIRMED ESSENTIALS OF NEWS STORIES WITH MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND CHIEF OF STAFF. SUMMARY OF THEIR DESCRIPTIONS FOLLOWS:

(A) BORDER CLASH - THE JULY 14 INCIDENT AT THE BORDER WAS DESCRIBED AS "VERY SERIOUS", HAVING INVOLVED HONDURAN TROOPS FIRING SMALL ARMS, LIGHT AND HEAVY ARTILLERY, FOR SOME FOUR  
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HOURS. SALVADORANS CLAIM THEY RESPONDED IN KIND AFTER

RECEIVING INCOMING FIRE. THE DUEL INVOLVED "NUMEROUS" CASUALTIES.

(B) CHIEF OKUSTAFF MEETING - CHIEF OF STAFF COL. ARMANDO LEONIDES ROJAS CONFIRMED THAT HE AND HIS STAFF MET WITH THEIR HONDURAN COUNTERPARTS ON JULY 16. ROJAS CLAIMED THAT THE TWO SIDES WERE VERY CLOSE TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION WITH AN AGREEMENT TO FULLY IMPLEMENT THE SAN JOSE PROTOCOL, WHEN SUDDENTLY HONDURAN CHIEF OF STAFF COL. SIERRA STOOD UP, CLAIMED THAT ALL SALVADORANS ILLEGALLY IN HONDURAN TERRITORY MUST LEAVE AND THAT THERE WOULD BE NO POSSIBILITY OF CONCESSION ON THAT POINT. ROJAS SAID THE TALKS COLLAPSED AT THIS POINT.

3. THESE SAME GOES SOURCES CONFIRMED THAT GUATEMALA HAS DECIDED TO SEEK OAS INVESTIGATION OF THE CONTINUING SQUABBLE AND DETERMINATION OF BEST MEANS TO AVOID FUTURE CONFRONTATIONS.

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** BORDER INCIDENTS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** powellba  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Type:** TE  
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